

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 9-13 and 15-23 would be allowable if the double patenting rejection were overcome.

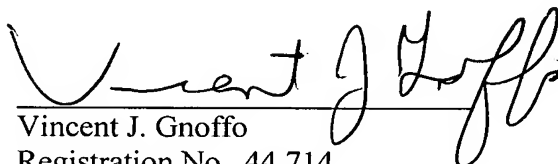
Claims 1-4, 13, and 16-20 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 12, and 15-22 of U.S. Patent No. 7,156,859. Applicants are filing a terminal disclaimer herewith. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Loomas et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,403,335).

Claim 1 is amended to include the feature of claims 9, and a terminal disclaimer is being filed to overcome the double patenting rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 1 be withdrawn. The remaining claims depend from claim 1 and thus include the features of claim 1, plus additional features. Therefore, for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the remaining claims also be withdrawn.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4224 if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,


Vincent J. Gnoffo
Registration No. 44,714
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200